

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY229953
Inspection date	23 July 2007
Inspector	Jackie Nation

Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Childminding

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2002. She lives with her three children aged seven, 11 and 13 years. They live in Tipton within walking distance of local amenities, such as schools, parks and shops. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. Upstairs rooms are not used, except for access to the bathroom. The childminder has a dog and a rabbit.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years at any one time. She is currently minding one child under five years, and three children over five years who attend before and after school on varied days. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Procedures followed by the childminder help to minimise the risk of

cross-infection. For example, children wash their hands after using the toilet and before meals. Children have their own individual towels in the bathroom. Children's individual health needs are supported and procedures are in place, for example, if a child is unwell parents are informed and there are procedures in place for recording medication and accidents. The childminder has written consent from parents to enable her to seek emergency medical treatment or advice. She has a current first aid certificate and her first aid box is easily accessible.

Children's dietary needs are met effectively and they are provided with a range of healthy snacks, nutritious meals and regular drinks. The childminder takes account of the wishes of parents and the children's choices to provide meals and snacks that appeal to them and meet their dietary needs.

Children rest and sleep according to their needs, individual routines are discussed with parents. During daily routines children have opportunities to be active and have quiet times or rest. Children engage in a range of activities to promote their physical development. They go for walks in the local area, visit local parks and are able to play in the garden using a range of play equipment. This contributes to their health, well-being and physical development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a homely environment where they have sufficient space to move around and play freely. Children use developmentally appropriate toys and resources safely and are able to access most of these themselves. This helps develop their confidence and independence. The childminder ensures that toys are maintained in a safe and clean condition by carrying out regular checks.

The childminder identifies some potential risks to children and taken action to minimise these. For example, safety features are in place, such as a safety gate to prevent access to the kitchen and the use of a fixed fireguard. However, children's safety is compromised because of their access to low glass in a cabinet in the lounge area where they are cared for and access to the front door which is not locked. Smoke detectors are fitted and maintained in working order as they are regularly checked by the childminder. A fire blanket which conforms to the required safety standard is easily accessible in the kitchen. Written fire evacuation procedures are in place and discussed with older children. Children learn how to keep themselves safe when outside the home as the childminder talks to them about road safety.

Children's welfare is effectively safeguarded. The childminder understands her role in protecting children in her care and is able to put the local child protection procedures into place if required.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are comfortable and relaxed in the childminder's home and they have developed a caring relationship with her. Children develop their play and learning because the childminder has an understanding of child development. She plans and provides a suitable range of activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities. Children benefit from a flexible routine, which provides them with play and learning experiences both inside and outside of the home. Children take part in a varied range of outings, these include visits to local parks and the library. Children enjoy the activities provided which

contribute to their creativity and imagination, they are able to paint, sing songs and listen to stories. This helps children acquire new knowledge and skills.

Children are able to self-select toys and resources which are kept in a dedicated playroom. The childminder regularly uses the toy library to ensure she is well-equipped to meet children's needs. Children get on well together and older children play well with the younger children, they read them stories and involve them in their play, for example, dressing-up. This helps children to make positive relationships. Children who attend after school enjoy playing in the garden and using the computer to find interesting creative activities, for example, making masks and book marks. The childminder's interaction with the children is good, she listens to what they are saying and shows interest in what they are doing. She becomes involved by supporting their play and helping them to complete more difficult tasks. This helps children develop confidence and self-esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are well supported because the childminder makes sure children are welcomed into her home and feel a sense of belonging. Their care needs are discussed with parents and routines and preferences are followed, this helps children to settle in and feel comfortable. Children have a good relationship with the childminder who knows them well and responds to their individual needs in a sensitive manner. For example, she has a flexible routine and takes into account children's feeling and well-being on a daily basis. The childminder provides resources which reflect positive images of different cultures and disability, this helps children develop their understanding of a wider society.

The childminder is positive about inclusion and is aware of children's developmental stages. Consequently, she feels able to approach parents if she is concerned about children's progress and meet any specific needs.

Children's welfare and development is promoted because the childminder has a good understanding of behaviour management. Children develop an understanding of responsible behaviour because the childminder offers them strategies for handling their feeling and emotions. They develop an awareness of the need for simple rules and gentle reminders help children know what is expected from them. Parents are kept informed of any concerns and there is a system in place for recording significant incidents.

A close informal relationship with parents contributes to children's well-being. Information is shared daily and parents are kept informed about their child's day, care and routine. In addition parents are provided with a helpful range of policy documents about the provision. Parents are aware of how they make a complaint about the service provided. Positive relationships all round contribute to the children's well-being.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's needs are supported appropriately, this is because space and resources are organised to enable children to develop their independence and initiate their own play. They settle easily into this relaxed atmosphere and benefit from routines which are flexible and have regard for their individual needs.

Children's health, enjoyment and care is generally promoted through a range of policies, procedures and good partnership with parents. Parents are aware of the childminders record keeping procedures and documentation is stored securely and confidentially. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the quality and standards of the care were judged as inadequate and as a result an action was raised. The childminder was asked to undertake a first aid course which includes training in first aid for infants and young children.

The childminder has completed an appropriate first aid course. This ensures children's needs are met in the event of an accident that requires the childminder to administer first aid treatment. Therefore, the children's good health is promoted.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure low-glass is made safe or inaccessible and that children are not able to leave the premises unsupervised.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk